

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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R 201225Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7242

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC HAWAII

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK, IN

SUBJ: PAK/AFGHAN/INDIAN RELATIONS: CONTINUING DEVELOPMENTS

REF: KARACHI 0572

SUMMARY: LAST TWO WEEKS HAVE SEEN CONTINUATION OF ATMOSPHERE OF LOW LEVEL HOSTILITY AND GENERAL UNFRIENDLINESS TOWARDS PAKISTAN ON PART OF GOA WHILE AT SAME TIME RELATIONS WITH INDIA HAVE CONTINUED TO IMPROVE. END SUMMARY.

1. STATEMENTS IN EARLY MARCH OF PAK INTERIOR MINISTER QAYEUM KHAN

AND LAW MINISTER PIRZADA IN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE OVER EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY POWERS DREW PREDICTABLE AFGHAN RESPONSE. MFA SPOKESMAN MARCH 5 TERMED PROLONGATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY AS "NOTHING MORE THAN A PRETEXT FOR THREATENING RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF OUR PASHTUN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND BALUCH BROTHERS". PAKISTANI CHARGE BABAR WAS GIVEN ORAL

PROTEST ON PIRZADA'S REMARKS BY FOREIGN MINISTRY MARCH 5. BABAR ADDS TONE WAS NOT UNUSUALLY STRIDENT. GOVERNMENT-OPERATED KABUL TIMES OF MARCH 9 CARRIED UNSIGNED ARTICLE WHICH WAS CAREFUL POINT BY POINT REFUTATION OF CHARGES ALLEGEDLY MADE BY QAYEUM KHAN (BASICALLY THAT IT IS DUE TO "PROVOCATIVE ACTIVITIES" OF "OTHER COUNTRY", I.E., AFGHANISTAN, THAT EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES WAS NECESSARY). ARTICLE UNDOUBTEDLY GOVERNMENT-APPROVED STATEMENT.

2. BABAR WENT TO ISLAMABAD SUDDENLY MARCH 10 FOR A FEW DAYS FOR CONSULTATIONS ON THIS AND OTHER MATTERS AND WAS TOLD THAT PAK GOVERNMENT SOMEWHAT DISTURBED BY WHAT IT PERCEIVES TO BE INTENSIFICATION OF ANTI-PAK PROPAGANDA ON RADIO AFGHANISTAN'S "PASHTUNISTAN" PROGRAM. FYI: WE HAVE NOT NOTED ANY MAJOR SHIFT IN USUAL RHETORIC ON SUBJECT. END FYI.

3. ASSASSINATION OF HAJI MAULAWI SHAMSUDDIN (REFTEL) IN BALUCHISTAN DREW PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF "PROFOUND SORROW" BY PRESIDENT DAOUD. PRESS ARTICLES LIONIZED SHAMSUDDIN AS BEING "MARTYRED BY ENEMIES OF PASHTUN AND BALUCH PEOPLES".

4. COMMENT: GOA REACTION TO THESE TWO EVENTS HAS BEEN GENERALLY RESTRAINED. ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY IRRITATED BY PIRZADA'S AND QAYEUM KHAN'S REMARKS AND PROBABLY HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING MRUDER OF SHAMSUDDIN, GOA STICKING TO LOW PUBLIC PROFILE APPROACH AS THEY REALIZE THAT AT LEAST FOR PRESENT THEY ARE IN NO POSITION TO DO ANYTING ABOUT IT AND DO NOT WANT TO GIVE BHUTTO ANY PROVOCATION FOR A FURTHER RCRACKDOWN IN FRONTIER AREAS TO WICH AFGHANS UNABLE TO RESPOND. END COMMENT.

5. WE HAVE IMPRESSION INDIANS HAVE COUNSELLED AFGHANS TO TONE DOWN THEIR ACTIVITIES AGAINST PAKISTAN. ON MARCH 18, DEPFONMIN ABDULLAH TOLD AMB GOA DID NOT WANT TO SEE DISINTEGRATION OF PAKISTAN. PREVIOUS COMMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN THIS EXPLICIT. ADDITIONALLY, INDIAN AMBASSADOR MEHTA IN CONVERSATION MARCH 18 WITH AMBASSADOR GAVE CLEAR IMPRESSION INDIANS IN BOTH DELHI AND KABUL HAD SO ADVISED AFGHANS.

6. INDIAN MILITARY DELEGATION HEADED BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF OF ARMY WAS IN KABUL MARCH 4-16. THEY WERE JOINED ON MARCH 11 BY DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER GOVIND NARAYAN. VISIT RECEIVED BIG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PUBLIC RELATIONS PLAY AND GROUP HAD EXTENSIVE MEETINGS WITH HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS INCLUDING PRESIDENT DAOUD WHO, IN ADDITION, HOSTED BANQUET IN THEIR HONOR. (COMMENT: ONLY THE SECOND TIME SINCE COUP THAT PRESIDENT HAS PERSONALLY ENTERTAINED VISITORS; OTHER OCCASION WAS BANQUET FOR RUSSIAN MILITARY DELEGATION. END COMMENT) WE HAVE HEARD THAT AFGHANS HAVE REQUESTED AND INDIANS HAVE ACCEPTED INCREASED TRAINING FOR AFGHAN MILITARY AND PERHAPS POLICE IN INDIA AND POSSIBLY IN AFGHANISTAN. NUMBERS MENTIONED GO AS

HIGH AS 300 PER YEAR, WITH EMPHASIS SAID TO BE ON AFGHAN AIR FORCE
AS INSTITUTION THAT NEEDS TO BE COMPLETELY REBUILT SINCE POST COUP
PURGES. AFGHAN MILITARY IS PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF VISIT, AND IF
THESE ARRANGEMENTS WORK OUT, INDIANS WILL GAIN AN INCREASED MEASURE
OF INFLUENCE AND AFGHANS WILL HAVE MADE GOOD START ON OBJECTIVE OF
OBTAINING SOME "ALTERNATIVE" (ACCEPTABLE IN THEIR OWN POLITICAL
CONTEXT) TO PRESENT ALMOST COMPLETE RELIANCE ON SOVIETS FOR
MILITARY TRAINING.
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